

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 3, 2014

The President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20050

Dear Mr. President:

We write to ask that your administration deny a pending United States visa application for Hamid Abutalebi, the Islamic Republic of Iran's announced choice to be their Ambassador to the United Nations (UN).

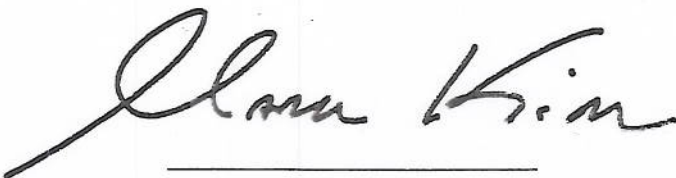
According to media reports, Hamid Abutalebi was part of the Muslim Student Followers of the Imam's Line, the group that took over the U.S. Embassy in Tehran in November 1979 and held 52 Americans hostage for 444 days. Mr. Abutalebi himself admitted serving as an interpreter during the hostage crisis.

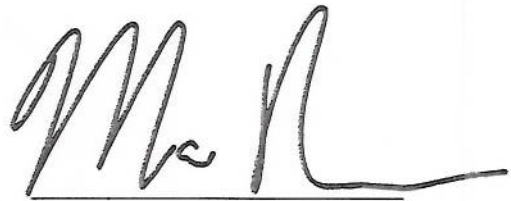
As you know, some of the American hostages have publicly expressed outrage that one of their captors might be allowed into the United States. Mr. Barry Rosen, who served as a press attaché at the US Embassy in Tehran, said it would be "an outrage" and "a disgrace" if the US granted a visa to Abutalebi.

We could not agree more. The United States should not be granting entry to an individual who publicly admitted to participating in an act of terror against the United States and its citizens. Coming just weeks after Ayatollah Khamenei once again questioned the "certainty" of the Holocaust, the regime's appointment of Abutalebi is just another sign that Iran has yet to change its dangerous policies.

Therefore, we respectfully request that Hamid Abutalebi promptly be denied a US visa and that you instruct Ambassador Power to work closely with the UN Secretary General to ensure that he is never accepted as a representative to the United Nations.

Sincerely,





Metib M. Connell

Jerry Moran

John Horan

Joe E. Kirsch

William J. E.

Chuck Grassley

Quinn Hatch

John Thune

Pat Rooney

Mike Johanns

Ed Burr

Sam M. Garza

John Cornyn

John Boozman

Pat Roberts

Larry Walker

Tom Coburn

Kay Hens

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